

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A steering column apparatus comprising:

a steering column provided with a steering lock mount portion on its outer circumference and supporting a steering shaft rotatably;

a steering lock having a lock key for latching said steering shaft and a contact portion that is in contact with a part of said steering lock mount portion of said steering column; and

a lock bracket having a contact portion that is in contact with another part of said steering lock mount portion, said contact portion of said steering lock and said contact portion of said lock bracket embracing said steering lock mount portion of said steering column,

wherein the steering lock mount portion of said steering column abuts at least one of said steering lock and said lock bracket with an abutting surface having a non-circular cross section.

2. (Original) A steering column apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said steering lock mount portion abuts said steering lock with a circular cross section.

3. (Currently Amended) A steering column apparatus according to claim 1, ~~or 2~~ wherein said steering lock mount portion is plastically formed by a bulge process.

4. (Original) A steering column apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said steering column includes an plastically formed portion other than said steering lock mount portion, and said plastically formed portion is plastically formed by a bulge process simultaneously with the steering lock mount portion.

5. (New) A steering column apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said steering lock mount portion is plastically formed by a bulge process.

6. (New) A steering column apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said steering column includes an plastically formed portion other than said steering lock mount portion, and said plastically formed portion is

plastically formed by a bulge process simultaneously with the steering lock mount portion.